

Nicole Seltzer

04/04/2002 04:07 PM

To: Vince Pitruzzello/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

cc: Bruce Sprague/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Charles

Nace/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Marian Olsen/R2/USEPA/US@EPA,  
Richard Salkie@EPA, Lou DiGuardia/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael  
Sivak/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Peter Brandt/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

Subject: Re: a coordination issue

Vince-

Michael forwarded this to me and I wanted to clarify.

Lou DiGuardia is the OSC for the Tutor Time site. On Tuesday he faxed me the air sampling data, asking me to share it with Chuck (as Lou was not in the office) and get feedback on some of the chemicals that were found. In Chuck's absence, I asked Mike Sivak to take a look at it and see if there were any red flags, as we were under pressure to release the data to the daycare's parents.

I understand the need for the risk assessors to work directly with the OSC or RPM, and was trying to facilitate that relationship by taking the OSC's message to Chuck. I had no intention of independently preparing any statement or release of the data without first sharing that information with our risk assessment and project management team, and the OSC was fully aware that the data had been given to the risk assessors for review. Perhaps I did not make it clear initially that the OSC had asked me to get the risk assessment team involved, and if I made Michael, Marian or Chuck uncomfortable by my actions, I apologize. However, I see myself as much a part of the project team as anyone, and so do not view my interaction with the risk assessors as inappropriate.

nicole

Nicole Seltzer  
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US EPA Region 2  
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Michael Sivak

Michael Sivak

04/04/02 03:05 PM

To: Vince Pitruzzello/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

cc: Bruce Sprague/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Charles

Nace/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Marian Olsen/R2/USEPA/US@EPA,  
Richard Salkie@EPA, (bcc: Nicole Seltzer/R2/USEPA/US)

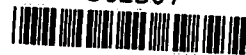
Subject: Re: a coordination issue

Vince,

I would like to clarify a few points in your note.

As the person Nicole originally contacted (in Chuck's absence), I was not uncomfortable in responding to her request. I was, however, confused as to why no one from the Removal Program had contacted us to help interpret the results of the air sampling data. Considering the confusion associated with air screening levels provided by ATSDR, state health agencies, and EPA at both the Tutor Time site and the White Swan Cleaners site, I would think that EPA risk assessors would be kept "in the loop" for these sites, in order to prevent confusion in the future.

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For future requests, I cannot emphasize enough that the Removal Program will get a much better product from us when we are involved in the site. Although our involvement may be viewed by some people as slowing down the process, it is often very important that we are involved in setting up sampling plans (to ensure that data are being collected that we can apply in risk scenarios), providing input on analytical methods and detection limits, and possibly in other areas as well. It is incredibly difficult, if not impossible, to provide support when we have limited information about a site. Also, we usually can respond more quickly when we have familiarity with a site, as well as when we have some indication that our involvement will be needed.

Thanks.

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Vince Pitruzzello

Vince Pitruzzello  
04/04/02 02:37 PM

To: Richard Salkie@EPA, Bruce Sprague/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc: Marian Olsen/R2/USEPA/US, Michael Sivak/R2/USEPA/US, Charles Nace/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
Subject: a coordination issue

the risk assessors brought something to my attention this morning and i just wanted to make sure we are all on the same wavelength.

nicole seltzer from CD asked for some risk input for the tutor time site. chuck nace is the lead for the risk work at the site. however chuck was on annual leave so nicole asked marian who provided the info to her since it was a rush. marian worked off sampling data that nicole supplied to her and did not speak with the OSC because of the rush. so hopefully she had the latest data.

the risk guys brought this to my attention and i suggested to them that in the future all such input or recommendations they make should go thru the OSC or a removal supervisor who can then work with CD on any press release or statement. my concern is that the OSC is the guy on the line & i just want to be sure that he/she is fully aware of any risk determination.

i'm sure that nicole was under the gun & had to be responsive but i felt uncomfortable (as did the risk assessors) that they were working directly thru CD & not the OSC (especially since this is a hot site).

so in the future i asked them to contact the OSC or one of you guys (i.e. this is a heads-up that you may get a call) since we need to ensure their technical input is coordinated with your response activities. this is an isolated incident but i want to be sure that we don't repeat it & possibly cause a problem in the future.  
thanks